1. AUDITION CONTRACT

Centerville High School Theatre

HADESTOWN: TEEN EDITION

CENTERVILLHSTHEATRE.COM/CAST

1. Read the audition contract.
2. Fill out both sides of the audition form.
3. Sign up for a time slot.

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in being a part of *HADESTOWN: TEEN EDITION*! This contract contains information about being part of the cast. After reading it carefully, fill out the audition form, which includes signing the contract, and sign up for an audition time slot. Bring your form to your audition.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me before auditions begin. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Mr. Hamen
jason.hamen@centerville.k12.oh.us

p.s. CHS Theatre uses the ParentSquare for announcements and reminders. The group is called "CHS Theatre Students/Parents."

ABOUT THE SHOW: *Additional details may be found in the director's notes on the "auditions" page of our website.*

Hadestown is a re-interpretation of two ancient Greek myths: Orpheus & Eurydice and Hades & Persephone. In the former, Eurydice falls in love with a musician, Orpheus, but when she ends up in the underworld, Hades puts Orpheus to a test of faith in order to let him leave with her. In the latter, Hades and Persephone's marriage drives the seasons, giving us spring when Persephone returns to her mother and winter when she is in the underworld with Hades. *Hadestown* opened on Broadway in 2019 to critical acclaim and went on to win eight Tony awards, including Best Musical, Best Original Score, and all four creative categories: Direction, Scenic, Sound, and Lighting Design.

AUDITIONS/CASTING

Auditions (Sept. 1-2) are a chance for directors to "try out" actors in different roles to find the best fit for the show. Sign up for one audition slot online. Please arrive at least 10 MINUTES EARLY, and be sure to bring a completed audition form/contract. You may not audition without first turning in your form.

Audition materials are available on the CHS Theatre website. Take time to review what is posted there so you may be fully prepared for your audition. centervillehstheatre.com/cast.html.

Perform one song for your audition (singing + acting). This may be one of the selections provided or a one-minute musical theatre cutting you have selected that best shows your abilities as a performer. Be aware that cast recordings are not always identical to what is in the script (including changes in lyrics, notes, or style). If you prepare one of the selections we provide, we will have music accompaniment for you. If you select your own song, you may choose to bring a karaoke backtrack to use (test on CHS wifi) or provide sheet music for an accompanist. There is no dance audition for this production. Copies of the audition songs are available online and outside the PAC office.

Callbacks will be held after school on September 3 (being called back is not a guarantee that you have been cast or cut). The callback list will be posted on centervillehstheatre.com/cast.html. We will send an announcement on ParentSquare when it is ready. Casting decisions are not based on seniority. All casting decisions are final. Since the needs of each show are different, we encourage you to audition again (even if you are not selected for this show) and to be involved in other ways, like set build or costuming.

CHS THEATRE CODE OF CONDUCT

The CHS student code of conduct is in place for all school activities.

Theatre skills are life skills. We want you to be successful both here and in the future. We expect you to:

- ★ Develop traits that lead to success:
  - Collaboration
  - Communication
  - Responsibility
  - Respect for others and our process together
- ★ Contribute to a process that is free from:
  - Bullying/harassment/hazing
  - Drug/alcohol use
  - Unsafe use of equipment
  - Behavior and language that are inappropriate for school

WHAT IS A DIRECTOR LOOKING FOR AT AUDITIONS?

Following are brief descriptions of the criteria that will be considered at auditions and callbacks:

1. WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT DECISIONS. Directors must make decisions in the best interest of the *show*, which may not match your own. Accept these decisions with grace and maturity. In rehearsal, this is called *taking direction*.
2. POTENTIAL. Only a few lucky people are born ready to act. The rest of us must be willing to learn and grow with every experience. Directors are also looking for choices that match their vision of the show.
3. CONFIDENCE. Directors want <u>you</u> to be awesome so they can have an awesome cast—they are on your side! Be willing to put forth your best effort in any situation.
4. AVAILABILITY. Check your schedule NOW and list any conflicts on your audition form. We will honor your conflicts and expect you not to add to them. <u>Students who are not passing all of their classes may not participate.</u>
5. TEAM PLAYERS. When a student is late, missing, unprepared, uncooperative, or has a poor attitude, the entire production is affected.
6. "STAGE PRESENCE." In theatre, actors must have energy and personality, or shows appear lifeless and flat. Projection, speaking clearly, note accuracy (when songs are involved), and vocal and physical expression are part of this, too.

REHEARSALS/SCHEDULE*

Cast members must attend every rehearsal where they appear in the scene. We are willing to work with scheduling conflicts <u>when they are provided in advance at auditions</u>. Conflicts are not accepted for "the no-conflict zone" (the final rehearsals leading up to a performance), performances, and strike (the day after the final performance). When absolutely necessary, rehearsals may be scheduled with twenty-four hour notice. Rehearsals are closed (no spectators).
Cast members who are consistently unprepared or missing from rehearsals will meet with the director, which may result in their removal from the show. You are joining a team, so losing anyone is a major hardship.

**A detailed schedule for this show will not be published until after casting is complete. Refer to the tentative schedule.*

HAIR and COSTUMES

Productions are often set in a specific time, place, or style to achieve a "look" that fits a story. Therefore, cast members may be asked to cut or dye their hair and should not make noticeable changes in cut or color without consulting the director. Cast members may be asked to bring personal items (e.g. undergarments, deodorant, hair styling tools, etc.) for use during the production that will be stored in the theatre throughout the week of the show, if not earlier. Some productions require actors to provide their own dance shoes, and each actor must have their own theatrical makeup kit. Financial assistance is available so that these purchases do not prevent anyone from being involved.

CENTERVILLE SCHOOLS ACTIVITY FEE / CHS THEATRE FEE

Centerville Schools requires students who are part of <u>each</u> CHS Theatre production to pay a <u>$55 activity fee</u>. This fee will be applied to your student fees account. CHS Theatre requires <u>all participants</u> (cast and crew) to pay a $10 participation fee which covers expenses like show materials or meals, for example. **DO NOT LET THIS KEEP YOU FROM JOINING!** If you have concerns about paying, speak with Mr. Hamen as soon as possible.

YOUR DIRECTORS' ROLE

In exchange for your commitment to this production, you may expect equal commitment from your directors, including
-a safe working environment for a fun experience
-rehearsals with feedback to help you shape your role
-acting and technical challenges to use your creativity
-encouragement of students interested in growing as actors, technicians, and leaders

Continued.

STATEMENT ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION FROM THE EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION

"Theatre tells the stories of who we are. Through communal experiences, plays bring together imagined worlds on stages with actors, sets, lights, costumes, and sound that allow us to witness and reflect on the lives of others—their emotional trajectory of desire, disappointment, conflict, and resolution—whether through a monologue, song, or dance. As an art that reminds us that we are not alone, theatre can promote social discourse and change, prompt joy and sadness, and bring clarity to issues and ideas. No place is theatre's value and purpose more apparent than on school stages and in classrooms where teachers guide and nurture students through the journey of 'walking in someone else's shoes' and the creation of worlds that could be, that might be."

CHS Theatre seeks to provide experiences that are appropriately challenging for our caliber of high school theatre and acknowledges that preferences and values can vary widely within any community. Anyone interested in previewing a script may check out a copy through Mr. Hamen.

MIAMI VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE AWARDS

CHS Theatre is a member of the Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards, which celebrates the work students around the area. Our shows will be judged by theatre professionals, and awards are presented to students at a special celebration at the Schuster Center. If this show is selected to perform a song, additional rehearsals will occur. **mvhsta.org**

The 2027 MVHSTA Showcase is tentatively scheduled for May 27. When recording your conflicts on your form, be sure to check this date.

A SPECIAL NOTE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

It is difficult to be held in suspense waiting for Opening Night when you know your children have been working hard for a long time to prepare a production! Unlike other extra-curricular activities, the excitement of theatre comes from celebrating a final product, rather than a series of wins or losses. Whether your student is new to CHS Theatre or a familiar face, we are happy to meet or speak with you about the rehearsal process so you too know how everything works!

It takes a large team to make each show a success, including our parent support network. We welcome you to be involved in many different areas, including:

- Flower/souvenir sales on show nights
- Poster hanging in our community
- Food for cast/crew meals
- Chaperoning trips to State Conference/International Festival
- Clerical work when our office gets busy
- Spreading the word about your students' accomplishments!

BE A TEAM LEADER

We greatly appreciate the support of parents who serve as team leaders. Contact Mr. Hamen if you're interested in helping in a larger role.

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